

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

PETITION OF SOUTH CENTRAL BELL	)	
TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR CONFIDENTIAL	)	
TREATMENT OF INFORMATION FILED IN	)	
SUPPORT OF ITS SPECIAL SERVICE	)	CASE NO. 92-205
ARRANGEMENT CONTRACT WITH	)	
LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY	)	
FOR REMOTE METER READING	)	

O R D E R

This matter arising upon petition of South Central Bell Telephone Company ("South Central Bell") filed May 11, 1992 pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 7, for confidential protection of the cost support data developed in connection with South Central Bell's Special Service Arrangement Contract with Louisville Gas and Electric Company ("LG&E") on the grounds that disclosure of the information is likely to cause South Central Bell competitive injury, and it appearing to this Commission as follows:

South Central Bell has contracted with LG&E for the provisioning of Remote Meter Reading to approximately 50 homes in the Louisville area. The service will be provided on a trial basis for a period of one year using SLAC 1000 Equipment. In support of its application, South Central Bell has provided cost data which it seeks to protect as confidential.

The information sought to be protected is not known outside of South Central Bell and is not disseminated within South Central

Bell except to those employees who have a legitimate business need to know and act upon the information. South Central Bell seeks to preserve and protect the confidentiality of the information through all appropriate means, including the maintenance of appropriate security at its offices.

KRS 61.872(1) requires information filed with the Commission to be available for public inspection unless specifically exempted by statute. Exemptions from this requirement are provided in KRS 61.878(1). That section of the statute exempts 10 categories of information. One category exempted in subparagraph (b) of that section is commercial information confidentially disclosed to the Commission. To qualify for that exemption, it must be established that disclosure of the information is likely to cause substantial competitive harm to the party from whom the information was obtained. To satisfy this test, the party claiming confidentiality must demonstrate actual competition and a likelihood of substantial competitive injury if the information is disclosed. Competitive injury occurs when disclosure of the information gives competitors an unfair business advantage.

South Central Bell's competitors for Remote Meter Reading are vendors and manufacturers of digital radio technology. Such technology is being used today to offer the same service that South Central Bell proposes to provide to LG&E. Disclosure of the cost information sought to be protected would allow vendors and manufacturers of digital radio technology to determine South Central Bell's costs and contribution from its service which competitors could use to market their competing services to the

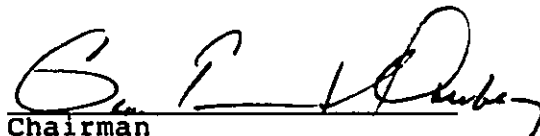
detriment of South Central Bell. Therefore, disclosure of the information is likely to cause South Central Bell competitive injury and the information should be protected as confidential.

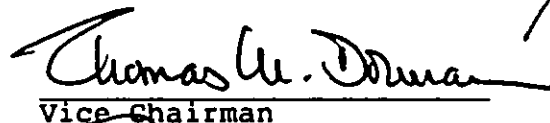
This Commission being otherwise sufficiently advised,

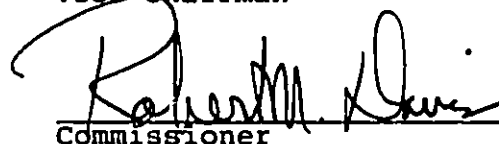
IT IS ORDERED that the cost support data developed by South Central Bell in connection with its Special Service Arrangement Contract with LG&E, which South Central has petitioned be withheld from public disclosure, shall be held and retained by this Commission as confidential and shall not be open for public inspection.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 8th day of June, 1992.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director, Acting